



The Omen



Loves you, but is morally conflicted



for the first issue in the 28th Volume of the Omen on February the 2nd in 2007, the year of our Lord.



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Layout & Editing

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Tara Jacob Nicholas De Ghetaldi

Chiron



TO SUBMIT:

Submissions are due on alternating Saturdays before 5 P.M. You can submit in rich text or plain text format by CD, Flash Drive, singing telegram, carrier pigeon, paper airplane, Fed-Ex, Pony Express, semaphore, or email. Get your submissions to Jacob Lefton, Merrill B307, Box 0953, jwl04@hampshire.edu

> "Can I write an article about how I went to Hampshire and don't know how to spell privilege"

- Aaron Buschbaum (grad 5'05,) on submitting to The OMEN.

Kristian Brevik



February 2nd,

EDITORIAL -

Smoking Sucks. Do Us A Favor and Drop Dead.

horomone and sustainable usage of

plants and down with the Man, and

stick of Pure-100%-THE MAN made

toxin in his mouth and lights it on fire,

inducing, brain-cell killing smoke down

thing that comes to your mind?

his hypicritical throat, what's the first

Well, I'll tell you the first thing that

Seriously. Stop polluting the air

the businesses who grow tobacco. It's

supportive of Republican lobby groups,

pretty much exclusively. It's a waste of

your money - you're putting it straight

into the pockets of people thirty to

give a damn about you and the cancer

ear Smokers. You suck. you would rationally think that putting niccotine and tar and smoke in your lungs is a good idea. It's stupid, it's then this Anarcho-Fascio-Vegan puts a preach "Community Responsibility not cool, and it kills you and everybody around you.

Did you know that almost fifty only to suck this carcinogenic, vomitpercent of Hampshire students smoke? How scary is that? Pretty scary. How disgusting is it? More disgusting than I can imagine. If someone comes up with a good description of that, then I comes to mine: might just give them a prize.

What in God's name would make OF GENETIC MATERIAL. you think that smoking is cool? Maybe it gives you a cool, rebellious air? I have to breathe. Stop supporting Maybe you feel like an artistic martyr, destroying your body as you pump out your horrible art? Maybe it masks the smell of your rotting brain. Maybe it invalidates anything you say because you can't be responsible enough to take care of your own health, so why should we have to listen to you bitch about how nobody else has any responsibility in this community?

incidental people around you who have to breathe your mouth excrement. When I see someone who smokes,

I mean, when you see a Punko- I take it as a sign of fundamental Anarcho-Vegan who preaches anti- stupidity, with few (very few) exceptions. Seriously, I can't believe GM food and anti-bovine growth I can't take what you have to say 100%

This is especially true for idiots who (TM)." When I hear that bullshit from you, your argument is immediately

Why would I be so full of myself to presume that I am above my fellow

Well, if you can't be responsible enough to take care of your own body. YOU ARE A FUCKING WASTE how can you be trusted to be able to take care of anyone else? I don't care who you are or what sort of philosophy you preach. If you're going to engage in an activity that is actively physically harmful to both you and those around you, then you should be shunned untill you decide to grow a brain and stop hurting both yourself and other people. fourty years your senior who don't It's disgusting, you fucking hypocrites.

Do your loved ones a favor for you and your loved ones and all the Valentine's Day: QUIT.

> Love Always, Your smoke free editor.



The Omen is Hampshire's longestrunning bi-monthly publication, established by Stephanie Cole and Scott Tundermann in December of 1992. In the past, submissions have included students' perspectives on the campus, administration, news, movie reviews. commentary, short fiction, satire, first born, artwork, comics, and the occasional embarrassing self-promotion.

Everything the Omen receives, provided it is sent from a member of the Hampshire community, will be published unless it is deemed libelous or defamatory. Although we find such things amusing and entertaining for countless hours, it is just not an option in this forum. Libel will be considered clearly false or unsupportable writing that maliciously damages a person's reputation.

The Omen will not edit anything you write (except spelling and grammar). You must sign your real name (no anonymous submissions) and understand that you are responsible for what you say. Nonetheless, views in the Omen do not necessarily represent the views of anyone, anywhere, living or dead.

There is no Omen staff, save those positions of editor-in-chief and layout editor. To qualify for community service you must be a consistent contributor and help regularly with layout Layout times (and such) will be discussed at our meetings. Meetings are held every Tuesday after release of an issue in the Leadership Center at 6PM. Everyone, everywhere, living or dead, should come.

The Omen loves you.



THE OFFICIAL OMEN HAIRT:

Views in the Omen Do not necessarily (7)

Reflect the staff's views (5)



We hate en

You don'

Review of the Horrible Tragedy of Titus Andronicus

as Shakespeare's bloodiest play and thought to be his first tragedy. Apparently we can tell this from the script, because of numerous plot holes, lack of explanation of motivation, and it's a little less poetic than some of the 'masterpieces' (Midsummer, Lear, Hamlet. It's supposed to be one of the to the stage

It plainly shows in the horrible soul sucking three hours of tragic misery that was Hampshire's latest version of Titus.

Where to begin? Let's start with the few redeeming qualities of the production. Let's start with the first thing we saw when we walked into the theater: The stage. It was very well constructed, with multiple levels and a multi-purpose table/dead-body hole in the middle. The most entertaining part of the play was imagining that all the dead characters were playing poker and smoking down there. The other cool part of the set was the massive amount of techno-trash they used in construction. There were trees of cables and piles of VCRs and televisions and a microwave. Some of the costumes had this theme going on as well, which was very interesting to look at. I can tell they spent a lot of time and energy on this stuff.

However, this is where the virtues of the play come to a hard stop. According to the program book, the setting for the play was some sort of alternate universe in which the Roman Empire became technologically advanced and then suffered a terrible crash, plunging them into a bronze age level of technology with left over relics. Hence the set design. The setting however, did absolutely

the Andronicus is widely known nothing to enhance the play or make in more interesting for 98% of the line & That's calculated to approximately three by spread of

It was pretty hard to understand what P was going on. When Shakespeares 0 verse is delivered badly, it's very difficial 0 to understand. If the actor doesn't Hamlet. Its supposed to bring understand what they're saying the verse ends up coming out with the same iambic rythm (pumpity pumpity) for line after line, the words blend together, and there is no meaning. Most of the actors suffered from this problem. Vital plot information was not delivered.

What should have saved that is physicality, but that too failed greatly Even if we can't understand what characters are saying, we should be able to understand their motives from their physical actions. It was sad to read a director's statement that said she was so devoted to physicality in acting and for there to be so little of this belief evident in the play. As far as I can tell, the acting theory that went into the play was the "stand in one place and say your line with your arms semi-still by your side, and if you need to move and be changing emotion, pace back and forth so we can't tell that you've committed to an emotion or action." It was an Elizabethen sensibility of action, rather than a sensibility that I'm sure existed in Shakespeare's time, especially in a theater that included a large ground area right up against the stage for people who couldn't afford box seats.

There were a few actors and a few moments that were at all compelling and they were the ones with any physical action in them. The brothers Chiron

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and Demetrius were the most physical characters - you could tell who they were and what their motives were by their bodys' movements. They were the best characters in the show, hands down. Unfortunately, their acting and the rest of the play suffered from direction that did not know how to handle their talents, and every time Chiron and Demetrius were on stage they completely stole the scene, further detracting from understanding information that was being given by other characters. Proper direction would have either lowered their energy to the level of the principle actors (which would have been a tragic decision), or the energy of the other actors would have been raised and sustained throughout the play. Entrances and exits were also sorely lacking in energy.

Technically, the play was reasonably solid. I have very few complaints and some compliments. I enjoyed how the lighting took advantage of the columns and during the forest scene, illuminated

some of them in such a way that they represented trees in a quite compelling way - before the script even pointed out that indeed they were in the forest. However, at othere points, various diodes and electronic equipment on stage would turn on or off in confusing manners. The soundscape filled in the gaps between the lines and created an ambiance in an adequate way, except that I was painfully aware of it either during the show.

The special effects were adequate for the amount of time put in. When the Goth brothers' throats were cut, it would have been nice to see actual amounts of blood squirt from the devices on their necks. Also, the people who spent countless hours making the heads and hand were not thanked in the program book, nor were they informed that their props were not being used the night they came. The management of the play was quite sloppy in some respects.

Titus was chosen partialy because it is one of the hardest Shakespearean plays to do. We can tell that the actors, directors, and crew put a huge amount of effort into the play, so it didn't fail for lack of trying. It failed for lack of understanding: understanding the size and scope of the challeges, and understanding the fundamental tools necessary to tackle such a beast.

To be quite frank, as if I haven't changing tracks or looping several times already, I'm glad I didn't have to pay for a ticket. It was the first Hampshire play I've seen in two and a half years here, and it was quite disappointing. I wish I didn't have to waste three and a half hours in the discovery. However, the cast and crew seem to (for the most part) think it was fun and I hope many of them learned huge amounts, because if there's anything we can gain from this play, it's a very strong learning experience.

I'm So Happy that the Person Who Wrote, 'I'm so happy you exist' Exists

There is a heart drawn on the side of the building dedicated to Franklin Paterson. Inside this heart is the phrase, "I'm so glad that you exist". There is a trash can on the way to the Merrill/Dakin parking lot. On the side of this trash can is written the phrase, "There is no such thing as happiness. trash."

In the Merrill A1 long bath room there is graffiti that says, "Fuck this shit." There is graffiti that says, "I am better than you." There is graffiti that says, "Humans make me vomit."

When I first stepped onto Hampshire's campus, ready to move in and ready to move on from the high

leaving behind, the first thing I noticed was the afore-mentioned trash can. I smiled to myself, happy to finally have found a place where random acts of beauty dominated the world, a place where people attempted to spread

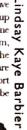
Since then I have realized that, despite there being some amazing acts of kindness and beauty, like the Hug Patrol, there is often very little difference between high school behavior and college behavior. The graffiti in the bathrooms is as obnoxious, the rate of theft is as alarming, students are as likely to smoke where they are not allowed to, and the

school behavior I was confident I was lack of respect for the community we are all a part of is as disheartening.

> This is your home. This is your or community. How do you want it to look? How do you want it to feel? You have a choice in this matter. Do you pick up the sharpie and write, "you make me sick" in the Merrill A1 long bath room, or do you tape signs to the walls of the bathrooms in Dakin that say, "you are beautiful" in colored pencil? What sort of messages do you honestly want to be a part of your home?

What sort of community do you want to be a part of?





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Volume 28 • Issue 02 News, Commentary,

Announcements.

Propaganda,

Editorials.

One Time...

One time I fell out of my chair with a fork in my hand, and it got stuck in office

One time I ran across the Mass Pike One time I had to be rescued by helicopter from the top of a mountain

One time I poured hot chocolate on another person because I thought he was talking shit about me

One time I danced till I threw up and my fifth grade teacher then I danced some more

One time I got hypothermia in New Zealand

One time I hitchhiked to New Hampshire

One time I almost got a spear through my face in Hawaii (instead it got caught camp in my hair)

One time I almost stole a pair of hot pink scratch and sniff socks from a newbury comics

One time I got kicked out of a circus for almost stealing a pair of hot pink scratch and sniff socks from a newbury comics

One time I drove across country in a pickup truck with 4 other people

climbed a mountain by myself

One time I got lost hiking the PCT and ran into cougar tracks

One time I was climbing into a box on my bed and I cracked my head open on the radiator

One time I left my only pair of shoes while hanging from harnesses by a random gorge in vermont

One time I (unknowingly) ran off the Africa where I was isolated for 24 hours edge of a small cliff

One time I did a backflip while skiing (by accident)

One time I saw James Brown in

One time I drove to Colorado from Oregon with some people I just met

One time I lost my shirt at a dodon

One time I was on the way to a complete method own masspike will be completed. driving 80 mph down masspike whe the hood of Owen's car flew up and behalf

One time I was harassed by state 1 baboons when I was trying to pee

One time I was locked in a closet by

One time I watched all three original star wars by mysel on my loth

One time I fell off a trapeze and landed on a little boy in the audience

One time I got fired from band

One time I had to sleep in a PT Cruiser because I got fired from band camp

One time I painted my face blue and went to see the blue man group

One time I painted my whole body in liquid latex

One time I painted my underwear with liquid latex too...while it was on me... and I had to cut it off...and lost One time I ate mushrooms and some body hair in the process...

One time I went to church

One time (meaning many times) I drew pictures of burning buildings and dead children and had to see a therapist

One time I landscaped a 60 ft. diff

One time I did a vision quest in South with no food

One time I swam with a black tipped reef shark

One time I lit my homework on fire and then threw the burning paper into a cardboard trashcan...

One time my house burned down for

unknown reasons... (just kidding)

One time I rode the greyhound from New York to Kansas

One time I swung on the uneven bars naked

One time I lost 14 nalgenes in one vear

One time I showed up to gymnastics drunk when I was 14 and fell on my head

Shameless self promotion: werere myspace.com/thefacultyband

--Love, Juliana

List of things that are awesome, according to € the Saga whiteboard:

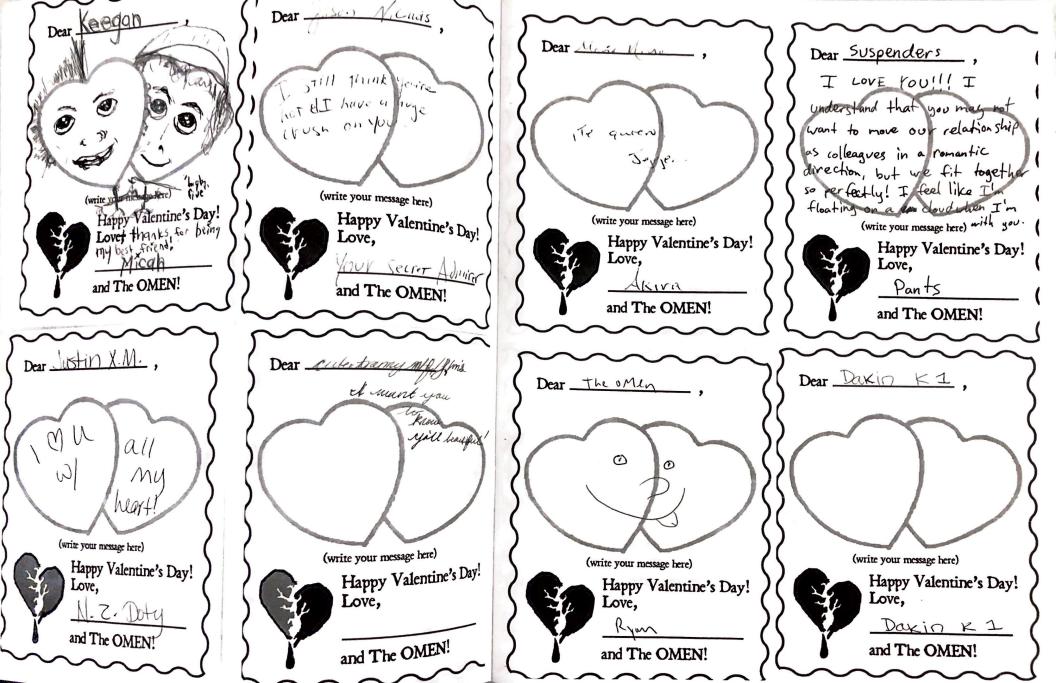
birthdays ballroom dance lessons cooking snuggling jesus's love for us all charles manson ferrets streakers sneakers snickers kittens mohawks

strawberries

by Molly Mcleod

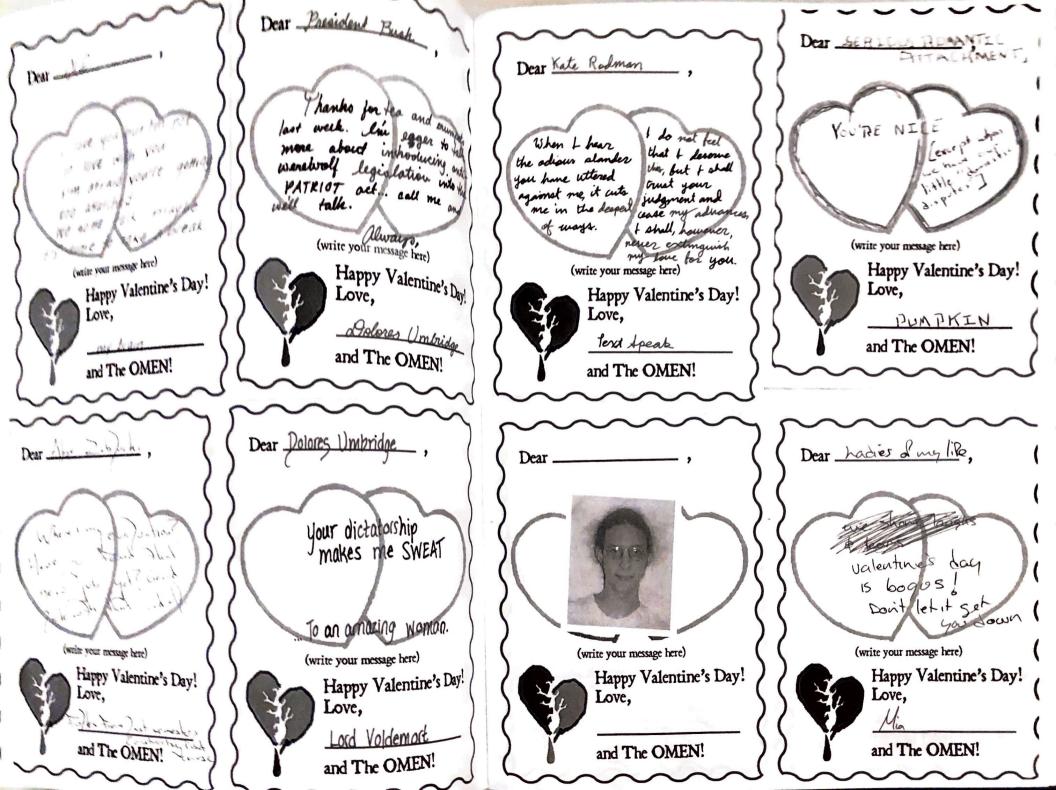








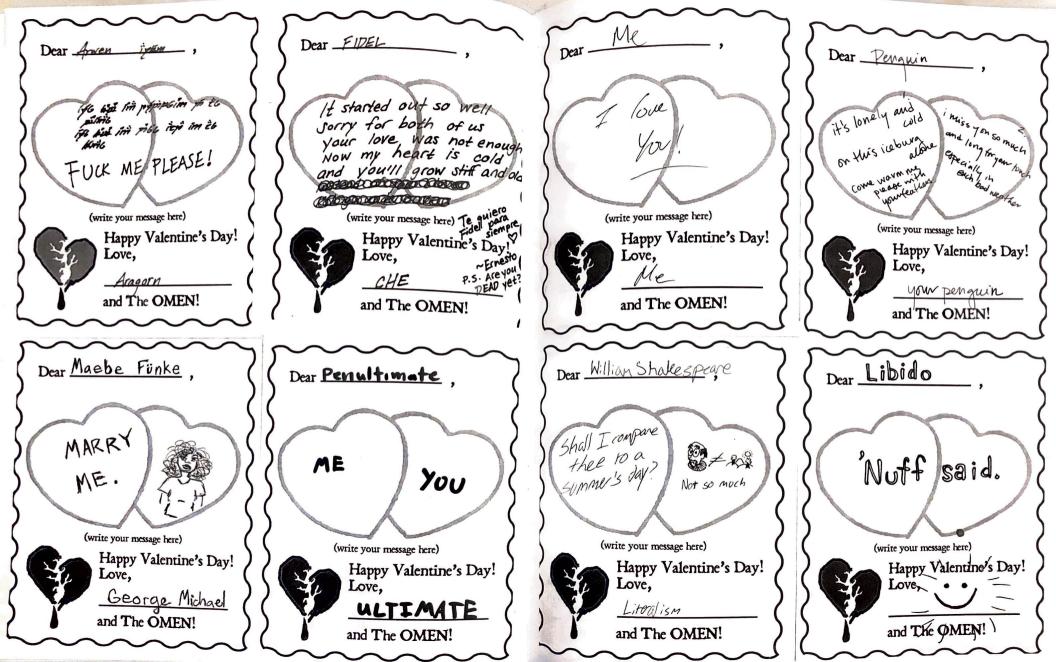






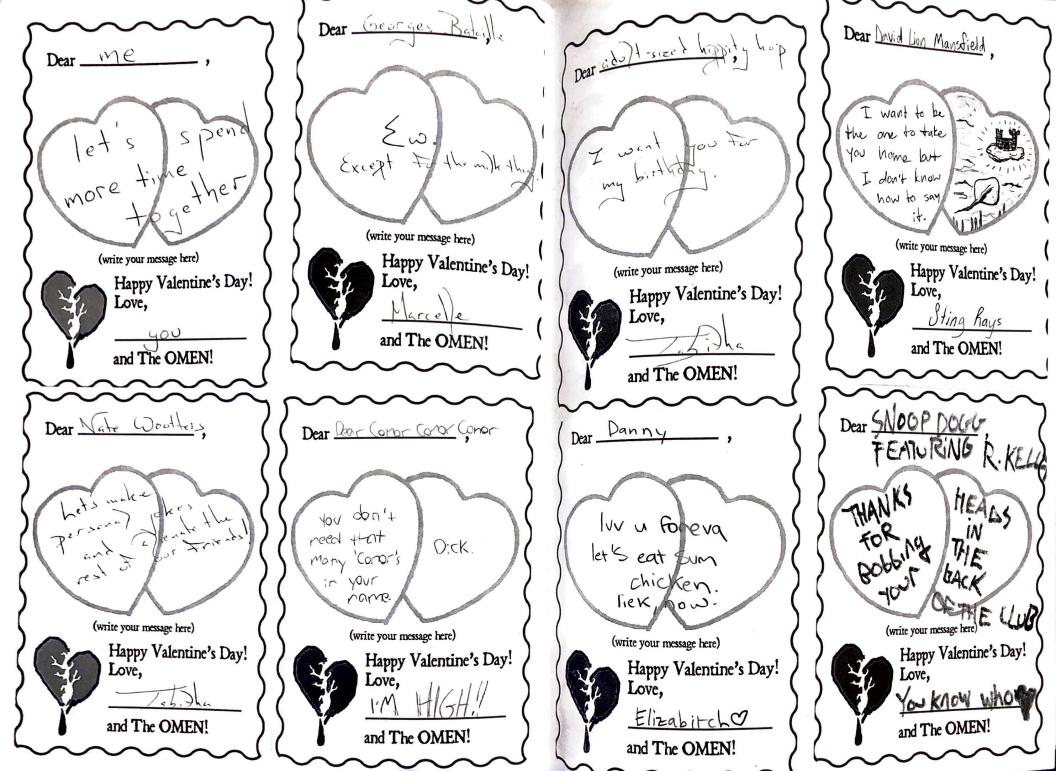


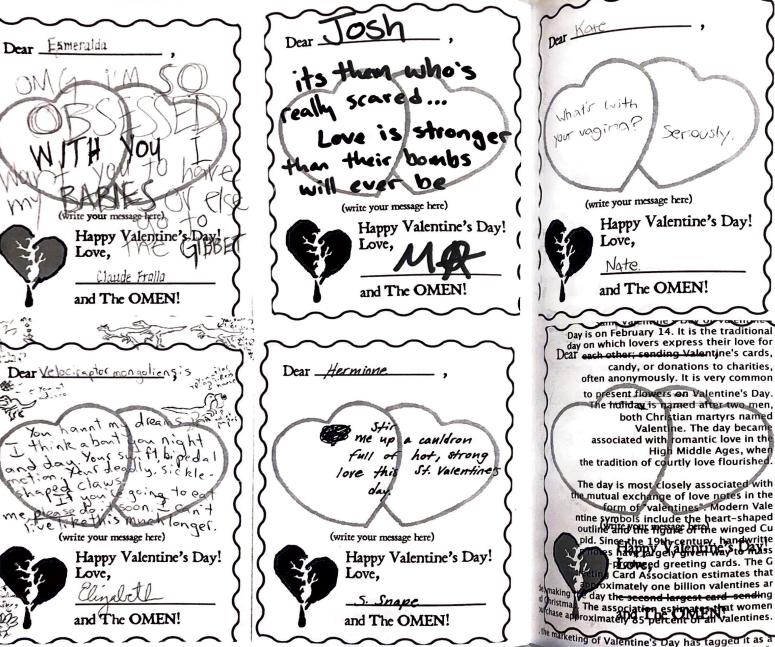












What's with your vagina? Seriously (write your message here) Happy Valentine's Day! Love, Nate and The OMEN! Day is on February 14. It is the traditional day on which lovers express their love for Dear each other; sending Valentine's cards, candy, or donations to charities,

> often anonymously. It is very common to present flowers on Valentine's Day. The holiday is named after two men,

associated with romantic love in the

the tradition of courtly love flourished.

The day is most closely associated with the mutual exchange of love notes in the form of "valentines". Modern Vale ntine symbols include the heart-shaped outline afforthe mount of the winged Cu

pid. Since the 19th century, handwritte

proceed greeting cards. The G

Card Association estimates that

oximately one billion valentines ar

both Christian martyrs named

Valentine. The day became

High Middle Ages, when

Love. a Carrot XOXUXO and The OMEN! Dear Julian Rary DiChiara

1018

(write your message here)

Happy Valentine's Day!

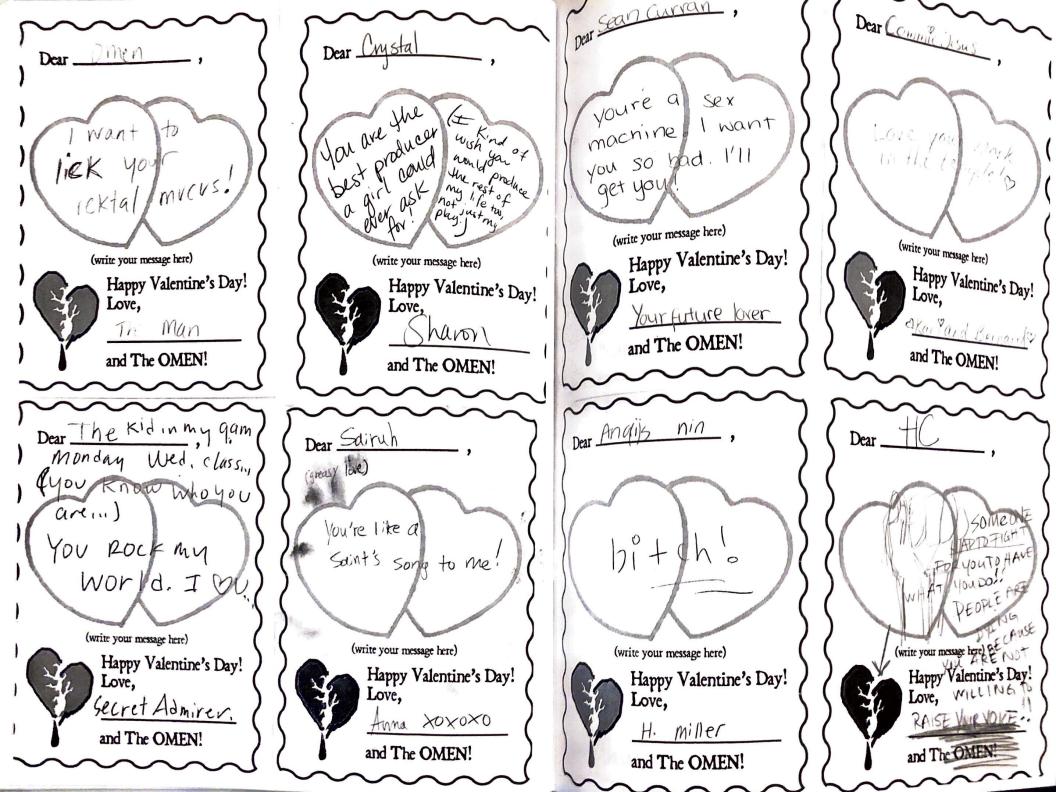
YOU

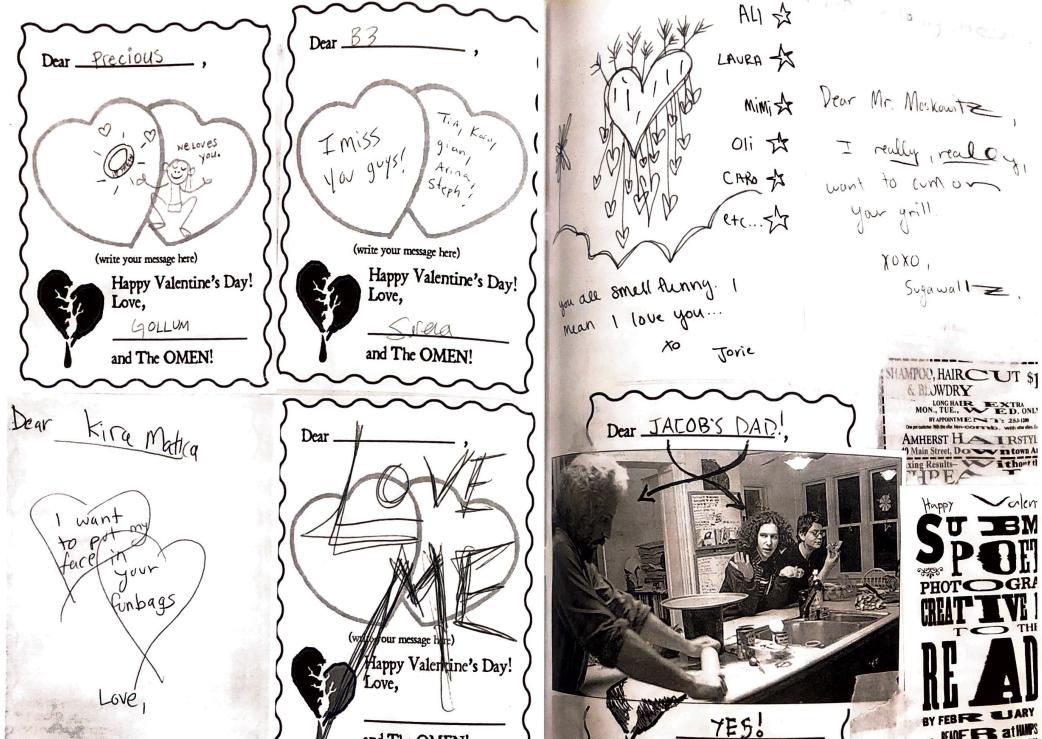
Dear MAYA



Happy Valentine's Day! Becca N. and The OMEN!







and The OMEN!

READE TE at HAMPS

and The OMEN!

the Omen

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OOO! Heart-Shaped cupcakes! \(^o^)/

[An all-inclusive reflection of the nature of Valentines Day...for Social Change 1

Monologues Day, or my personal. feel better, I suggest spending to your Unless they're creepy. favorite, Varied Chocolate Acquisition Day. What ever you want to call it, it's a day that people either spend in a state of good cheer, crippling depression, or I printed off like a bazillion valentines if you're actually in a relationship, most likely a constant state of arguing because you both had too high expectations.

Okay, I will give you couples one thing. A few of you may actually have the opportunity to have the sex. To which I say, congratulations and try to you know, be safe and whatnot. I'm not a sexpert, so you should be careful about the advice you take from me on the subject as it will most likely lead to you spawning something with tentacles in a few weeks if you choose to follow it.

Despite being single for a good 19 out of the 21 Valentines Days I've been through, I think I've basically come to terms with it. Like I said, chocolate. And being nice and skinny, I can pack away quite a lot of the discount stuff that CVS realizes they have to throw off their shelves on February 15th.

But no, despite the fact that this was a holiday shamelessly exploited by the card and chocolate companies, I do rather enjoy it. In fact, I think the best thing we can do in the face of such soulless corporations is to actually

o, Valentines Day, or Singles supporting them or not? As long as allowed to exist and enjoy themselves. Awareness Day, or Vagina that money's going to make someone heart's content.

> Ornot. For instance, last year on a whim, which I handed out to pretty much everyone I saw. Because it seemed like fun. I even offered my valentine delivery services to everyone who was interested in sending something anonymously or

"... What I will be doing is going out of my way to wishing everyone I see, that they have a wonderful Valentines."

not. Chances are I will not have time for that this Valentines Day.

What I will be doing is going out of my way to wishing everyone I see, that they have a wonderful Valentines. Singles Awareness, Couples, whatever. It's not important. What's important is using this as an opportunity to maybe cheer someone up who would otherwise be feeling down. To let bygones be bygones and maybe for one day allowing the idea have a good time. So what if we're that even people you hate should be

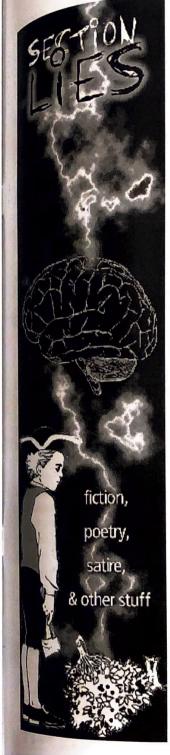
Oh, what the hell, creepy people can come too. Maybe if you had more human contact, you'd be a little less freaky. As long as it doesn't involve things from the internet which shouldn't exist and/or a goat, I'm probably down with that.

So anyway, single or no, happy, sad. up, down, or side-to-side, if you see me walking around on Valentines Day, and I have yet to wish you a good one, please run up to me and wave your arms or something and I'll be sure to do so.

This is the end of the article, so you can stop undressing it with your eyes.

All questions, comments and professions of love and desire as a response to this article will be warmly received at sar04@hampshire.edu





Volume 28 • Issue 02 The End of a High School Relationship

ear Cynthia, First off I would like to say that you have been an incredibly valued member of this company. Your ability to shine in times of bleakness (such as when the Tuttle's party was turning in lame-sauce until your suggestion to play strip twister) has put you ahead of others in your field and brought countless smiles to people's faces, not to mention your wonderful social skills, which have caused the maternal figurehead of my nuclear family to remark, on several occasions. "Give my love to your girlfriend, Chester. Oh, and do let her know that she's welcome to dinner any time at all."

Yes, quite.

You've been with this organization for a very long time, almost from the beginning - we did have another under our employ about a year and a half prior to your own employment, a young woman who went by the name of "Lizzie" if I recall correctly. She initially demonstrated a great deal of interest, but I think it may have been insincere for she left two weeks later to join Will's company. One year and six months later, after an exhaustive period of searching for just the right candidate, I happened to find myself at Philip's for a social gathering. I was in a bit of a sour disposition and

nursing a glass of Patrón, when you sat 🖚 down next to me. As you may recall, we struck up conversation, and "hit it off". The rest, as they say, is history.

theOmen

We've had some really great times, rest assured, they have not been overlooked. Lying on the beach, the warm sun beating down, waves lapping at the shore. Yes, that was definitely a source of happiness, of which there have been many. Yes, I too was looking forward to those monogrammed towels that we one day hoped to have; "C & C" they would read. Unfortunately, with time comes change and the higher ups have seen it fit that I should be moved from the Brinton High family to the Harvard family. Because it is company policy not to outsource and because of our new proximal distances, it is with a heavy heart that I must inform you that your time with the company will be ending as of the 15th of September.

If you happen to need a good letter of recommendation sometime in the future, we will be more than happy to provide it.

Sincerest, Chester M.



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Beloved Hampshire Student "Enrique" Dead at 19, Stripping Usually Results In A Dead Stripper

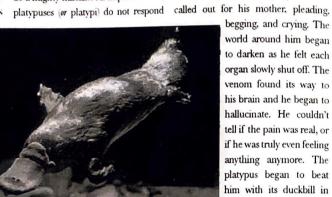
Amherst, Mass. - Enrique Van Slyke was on his way back to his dorm room from the stripper bar that he works (The Naughty Shack, when he encountered a very sinister surprise. It was just another o day, another walk home from selling This body to the lowest bidder, another solemn walk while counting his chunk

u change that had become more important than his own soul. Or. was it just another day? No, no it was not. In fact, it was about to become a very abnormal day. Imagine a rabbit flying on a dragon that breathed diamonds rather than fire while the rabbit did acrobatics and magic tricks and pulled a magician out of its hat. That's how abnormal it was about to get. Pretty fucking weird. Trust me, if you saw that, you'd be like, damn, I need an Advil, or I need to lay off the

LSD, because that is not something you see every day. It is very possible that the extreme amounts of acid I have taken have become embedded in my nervous system therefore sending me in a perpetual state of trippy-ness. You now have an understanding of what the rest of this article will feel like.

Contrary to popular belief, the platypus is quite a ferocious beast. It must be, because it is nature's joke. No animal is that ridiculous on purpose. Over the years, it developed a very short and mean temper because of the constant ridicule

and laughter that it was subject to by all the other animals. That is why when Enrique stumbled upon the beast on his journey home form The Naughty Shack Enrique fell to the ground in a



Fucking ridiculous.

well to laughter. Especially when being laughed at by a soulless stripper.

You see, the platypus had been in the audience at The Naughty Shack and had when he did his routine on the main layer. stage. He had caught up to Enrique to him enough money to pay for his tuition for the next three years. It changed its (Humphrey). mind, however, when it became subject to Enrique's laughter. Instead, it was sent into a fit of rage where it used its

venomous spur on its hind leg to cut Enrique. That's right, the platypus even has a venomous spur.

that he did not reply with fear at first, tremendous amount of pain. He lay but instead laughter. Which proved to there, clutching his cut chest while the be a mighty mistake. As implied earlier, venom began to rapidly spread. He

> begging, and crying. The world around him began to darken as he felt each organ slowly shut off. The venom found its way to his brain and he began to hallucinate. He couldn't tell if the pain was real, or if he was truly even feeling anything anymore. The platypus began to beat him with its duckbill in order to shut him up. After he stopped making noise, but continued to twitch.

the vile platypus dragged him back to its Australian layer to be devoured by its fellow platypuses. We'll never know what happened to his remains, because grown a particular soft spot for Enrique no one dares venture into a platypus

Enrique's stripper name was show a gesture of kindness by giving Random Humphrey after his dog (Random) and the street he grew up on



I COULD NEVER GET THE HANG OF THURSDAYS Volume 28 • Issue 02

[A fortnightly column by Douglas Adams*]

rectings First of all I would like to apologize for my lack of column last week. Somewhere along past me unnoticed. I didn't even get the apportunity to listen to the wooshing you to read it. noise as it passed me by.

that what I've feared all along has come to pass: I have finally run out of relevant or mildly interesting things to I nearly allowed this deadline to nass me by as well (fully aware that my editor would be displeased in that event) out of shame of my lack of column this week but I could not let my few loval readers down. I tried in vain to elicit help from passers by and acquaintances, but responces I received were largely unhelpful. It was suggested to me that I replace every 8th word with the word 'pineapple', or that I begin my column "It had been an uneventful week, apart from the cumquat," but as imaginative as those ideas were, I felt, ultimately, that I would be cheating were I to try to fake my way through a column with stall. fruit. Perhaps I shall mull over these ideas and in a fortnight, when I'm atting once again at this computer, I'll have something particularly witty to say

on either of those subjects.

again, fanbase! is an anecdote. It's not a particularly the last stall was to remain clean, so armusing one, nor is it anything overly that when one needed to partake in thought provoking, but it is true, and a bowel movement, there would be it has the potential to make one reflect a clean toilet for one to sit upon. No 2 a clean tollet for one to sit upon. No perhaps it will be worth the time it takes

As it turns out, I sorry to tell you a fellow I know, currently a graduate least one stall clean enough to shit in?" student at Kings College. He's a Rather, it was a beautiful example of a bookish sort of chap, tall, quiet, and his great mass of people all coming to the interests lie in linguistics and classics. same conclusion without words being He lives in a dormitory, and happened necessary. to be placed on a hall with eleven other huge, loud, boisterous Englishmen. weeks ago, and while it seemed to be Needless to say, they don't speak much; just a silly anecdote at the time, I find in fact, the only relationship he has with myself continuing to think back on it. them revolves around their common I'm sure that this says something about bathroom.

Their bathroom is much what you Perhaps I just like the majesty of it, the would expect of eleven loud, frequently idea that things unspoken can be just pissed young men; it's an utter pigsty. as prevalent as things said aloud. And Vomit frequents the toilet stalls and, as it is with this idea in my mind that I the story goes, the seats to the toilets pass this story to you. Perhaps you, too, are frequently covered in urine. It is, shall find it intriguing, and perhaps it all in all, a largely filthy and unhygienic will lead you, as it has led me, to reflect place. That is, except for the final toilet on things unspoken.

The number of toilet stalls in the place evades me at the moment - there channeled by Rachel Rakov. Special thanks are either four or five, but that really to Derek Walker for his help in preparing this isn't the point. The point remains: by week's column. an unspoken agreement, the residents Instead, all I have for you today of this particular hall decided that

perhaps it will be worth the time it takes agreement; no notice was posted on \mathbb{Z}_{p} the mirror saying something along the 8 This story was relayed to me by lines of "Would it be so hard to leave at

> This story was told me to me several human nature, but I'm not sure what,

> *The spirit of Douglas Adams is

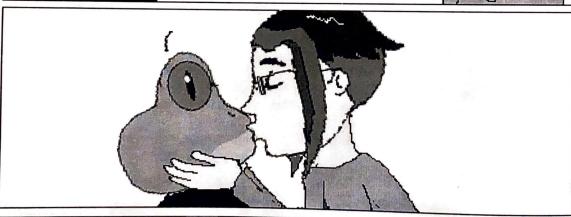
BLACK SHEEP & FROG.

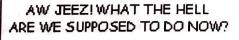
...2nd Valentine's Day Special

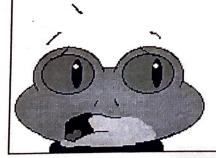
I'VE ALWAYS HAD TROUBLE
TELLING GIRLS HOW I FEEL ABOUT THEM,
IN FEAR THAT THEY MIGHT FEEL OBJECTIFIED
IF I DIDN'T TREAT THEM IN A PURELY PLATONIC WAY.
I GUESS I OVER THINK THINGS, HUH?











DAMN, THAT WAS SEXY.



BY ANDREW FLANAGAN